

4 March 2006
Saturday

READINGS

Psalm 43; Ezekiel 39:21-29, Philippians 4:10-20, John 17:20-26

DEVOTION

Many of you are familiar with the Cingular cell phone commercial where a gentleman goes to great lengths to gain reception on his cell phone. Every so often he would ask the other party, "Can you hear me now?" with no answer from the other party. This commercial brought to mind the scripture of Ezekiel 39:21-29. After reading this scripture, I would like to equate GOD to the gentleman who is trying to gain contact with the individual on the cell phone. You see, GOD is still the same as He has always been. He goes to great lengths to get our attention and the attention of the whole world.

Is the reason GOD is unable to gain contact with you due to your unwillingness to listen?

In many cases, GOD has to utilize a pitchfork to prod us or to gain our attention. GOD may use the pitchfork of loss, sickness or even pain. He may talk to us through difficult circumstances, job loss, and economic hardships. He may even subject us to the loss of our health. He may allow us physical, mental, or emotional pain to get our attention. If you are experiencing any of these things, listen carefully because GOD's voice is speaking through it all.

GOD may show us great kindness and mercy, which we believe may be undeserved. In spite of our waywardness, our deliberate acts of rebellion, our inattention to his word- read or spoken, our neglect to pray or sacrament, He will continue to call us to Him. Why? Not because we deserve it, but because He loves us unconditionally and in spite of our sinful ways. Like all good parents, GOD will continue to love and to nurture His child although the child may believe he no longer loves his Father, or that his Father loves him.

You see, GOD does not overlook our sins, nor will He abandon us when we sin. He will, however, walk with us through our journey to learn from our sin. He poured out his anger against sin through his son, Jesus. Do you believe that was not fair or that it is was not the way a Father should behave toward his only son? Those questions can be answered simply by saying that GOD's ways of doing things are not our ways. His methods are not our methods. His understanding is not our understanding. His love for us is simply beyond our comprehension.

GOD does whatever it takes to get our attention. What is GOD using to get your attention today? Are you listening?

If you do hear GOD's voice, do not harden your heart. Instead, turn to him, believe, and ask for His forgiveness and for His help. He will hear your cry, turn His face toward you, and give you peace.

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